

OUT OF TIME

Issue No. 45

Out of Control--Lesbian Committee to Support Women Political Prisoners

Nov 1998

A Holiday Arts and Crafts Sale to Benefit Women Political Prisoners

A "Holiday Arts and Crafts Sale to Benefit Women Political Prisoners," will be held on Saturday, December 12, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the Unitarian Fellowship Hall, Cedar & Bonita, in Berkeley, California.

The event will feature arts and crafts made by women political prisoners in the U.S., as well as gift items and services donated by Bay Area artists and merchants. Local poets and musicians will perform. Baked goods will also be sold. All proceeds will go into a special holiday fund for women political prisoners. (Prisoners earn approximately \$5/month for their prison jobs.)

The women political prisoners were community organizers and activists before their arrests, and continue as activists inside the prisons through prison reform projects, HIV peer education programs, and through their art, writings and poetry.

Please come to the crafts fair on Saturday, December 12th, do some holiday shopping, and show your support for these women. Besides crafts donated by the prisoners, there will be a silent auction. If you have an art or craft item or a service that you would like to donate, please call Margo Shafer at (510) 548-6658, or Judy Greenspan at (510) 533-2590. Hope to see you there.

This event is sponsored by California Prison Focus, the California Coalition for Women Prisoners, and the BFUU Social Action Committee.



Out of Time
c/o Out of Control Lesbian Committee
3543--18th Street, Box 30
San Francisco, CA 94110
e-mail: outoftime@igc.apc.org

Resistant Spirit-Tribute to Political Prisoner Marilyn Buck
Poetry: Mitsuye Yamada, Poetry for the People,
Straight Out Scribes, Nellie Wong.
La Pena, Sunday 1/24/99, 2-5PM, \$5 No one turned away

Letter from Assata Shakur

Greetings Sisters, Brothers, Comrades,

Never in our history has critical resistance to the status quo been more important. The growth of the Prison-Industrial complex has been appallingly rapid and the escalating repression that has accompanied it is totally alarming. What of future lies ahead of us? What are the implications for our children?

Those who are targeted as the victims of the Prison-Industrial Complex are mainly people of color. They are Native Americans, Africans, Asians, and Latinos, who came from societies where there were no prisons and where prisons were an unknown concept. Prisons were introduced in Africa, the Americas and Asia as byproducts of slavery and colonialism, and they continue to be instruments of exploitation and oppression... And today, those of us whose ancestors were imprisoned in Slave forts like Elmina, or Gorree Island, now find ourselves imprisoned in places like Elmira, Rikers Island, Terminal Island, Marion or Florence.

The prisons that are being constructed in the United States today are more sophisticated than concentration camps like Auschwitz or Dachau, but they serve the same purpose. The profits from prison industries, and prison slave labor is surpassing the super-exploitation levels of forced labor in Nazi concentration camps. The Prison-Industrial Complex... serves two purposes. One to neutralize and contain huge segments of potentially rebellious sectors of the population, and two, to sustain a system of super-exploitation, where mainly black and Latino captives are imprisoned in white rural, overseer communities. People of color are easy targets. Our criminalization and villainization is an American tradition. The image of the dirty-lazy-shiftless- savage - backwards- good-for nothing - darkies has been the underpinning of the racist culture and ideology, that dominates U.S. politics...

Repression, torture, and beatings are as common in U.S. prisons today as they were on slave plantations. And political prisoners bear the brunt of this systematic brutality. Those who fight against oppression are thrown into dungeons, rather than those who perpetuate it. The prolonged torture of solitary confinement is being used, not only as a weapon against political dissent, but as a weapon against anyone who protests any of the injustices of the system. How can you fight against injustice, without demanding the liberation of political prisoners?

Unfortunately, there are more young people behind bars because they have been inculcated with and are

reproducing the values of this decadent capitalist system, than those who are consciously struggling to change it. During the 1960s, when the movement was at its height, the prison population was only a fraction of what it is today. Those who institutionalized the kidnapping of Africans, those who orchestrated genocide against Native Americans, those who plunder the treasures of the world, and who are responsible for the most

heinous crimes on this planet, want to preach to us about law and order. Those who profit from human misery and deny us education, affirmation action, health care, decent housing, want to lecture us about morality. Many of us watch helplessly as our children imitate and internalize the greedy, ostentatious, culture of conspicuous consumption, practiced by those who oppress us. We watch the same people who import drugs into the

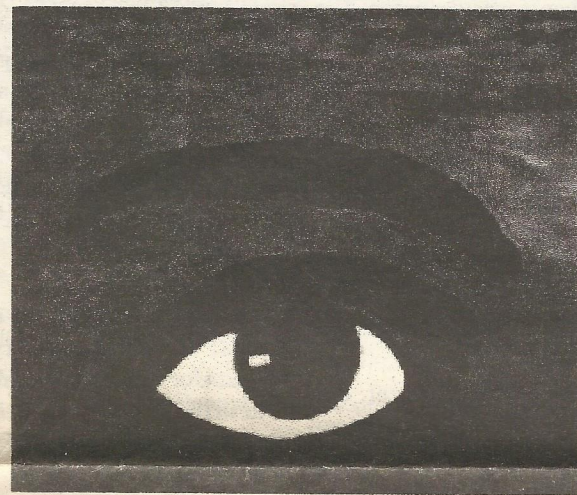
country, who distribute them in our communities, wage a war on us, in the name of fighting drugs. The Prison-Industrial complex is not a distortion of modern global capitalism; it is part and parcel of that system.

It is not enough to fight against the Prison-Industrial complex; we must fight against the ideology that promotes it. Human beings are social beings and have a basic need to live in nurturing communities, instead of hostile ones. The people on this planet have an infinite potential to contribute to this planet and it is a crime to prevent us from doing so... To those who rule this planet, we are all disposable. Our only value to them is the wealth that we are capable of producing. It is a system with no compassion, no love, and no faith... that sells and promotes and exports violence. It is a system that would rather warehouse and murder its young, than cultivate them. In this grotesque world with its grotesque, cynical values, it sounds naive to believe in people, and believe in our ability to create a better world. But how can you believe in a future if you don't believe in people who are going to make it? How can you believe in human rights unless you believe in human beings? How can you say you believe in justice, without believing in social justice, political justice and economic justice for all people?

The Prison-Industrial complex not only destroys individuals; it destroys families and communities. If we do not destroy it, it will destroy us. I urge you to do everything you can to break these chains.

Free All Political Prisoners!
Free Mumia Abu Jamal!

Assata Shakur,
Havana Cuba, September 25, 1998



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LEONARD PELTIER NEEDS A LAWYER

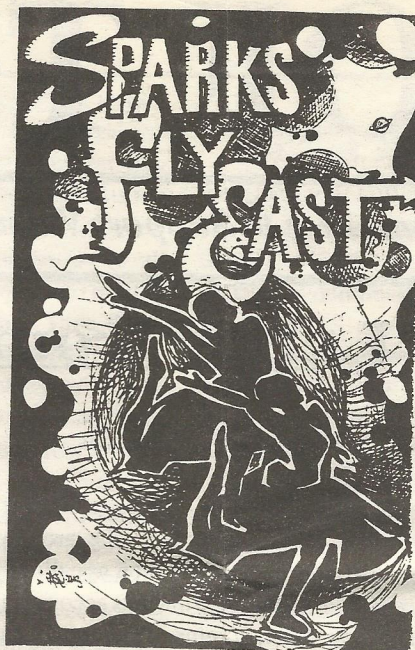
Leonard Peltier needs a lawyer to take a medical malpractice law-suit against the Federal Bureau of Prisons. In 1996 he was transferred to Springfield Medical Facility for a maxilla-facial surgery on his jaw. Dr. Collins, a contracted prison doctor had recommended that he be treated at the Mayo Clinic because, according to him, Springfield did not have the facilities to perform the operation. The prison ignored this advice. During the surgery Leonard almost died from blood loss. He went into a coma for fourteen hours. After the surgery, while he was still weak, he was put in the "hole" which was infested with cockroaches and ants. He was forced to stay in the 5x7 cell for 23 hours a day and was not given adequate writing materials or use of a telephone. During this time doctors convinced him that he needed radiation treatment on his jaw or he would die. He was not diagnosed with cancer. He was given radiation treatment for five days straight, making his condition even weaker. The operation was largely unsuccessful as his jaw is now in worse condition than it ever was before. For obvious reasons Leonard refuses any further "treatment" from Springfield.

Leonard cannot completely open or close his mouth. He cannot bite or chew his food and the prison will not blend it for him. He must mash his food with his tongue to eat. His jaw causes him constant excruciating pain daily and extreme headaches. The prison refuses to send him to the Mayo Clinic and will allow him to receive medical attention from Springfield only. The Mayo Clinic is contracted with the federal prison system and prisoners are routinely sent there for treatment. Dr. Keller from the Mayo Clinic has agreed to perform Leonard's surgery.

Leonard had to file a law suit pro-se because the statute of limitations was nearly up. He sighted cruel and unusual punishment as a means for relief. The prison quickly dismissed it on the grounds that medical neglect or malpractice does not constitute cruel and unusual punishment (October 14th). Obviously the prison was and is deliberately indifferent to Leonard's medical needs and this decision needs to be appealed before the statute of limitations is up. We need help ASAP!

Jim Leonard, one of Leonard's part-time lawyers, has a lot of necessary research prepared and is willing to meet with lawyers interested in taking the case. He cannot take it himself because he normally defends doctors against medical malpractice suits. **Please contact the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, PO Box 583, Lawrence, KS, 66044, email: lpdc@idir.net for more information.** We can email, fax, or mail you copies of the original brief and the dismissal. Leonard's condition could prove to be fatal if an infection in his gums or teeth should occur.

We ask that all supporters of Leonard and all those who believe in justice and oppose the use of torture to please e-mail messages asking that Leonard be allowed to be treated by the Mayo Clinic. **Send messages to: Kathleen Hawk, Director, Bureau of Prisons, "attention indicator" via: swolfson@bop.gov. Also write U.S. Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell at: administrator@campbell.senate.gov.** In your message, please not only bring up Leonard's medical condition, but also, that the prison's refusal of medical treatment should be a part of the Congressional hearings on Pine Ridge and the case of Leonard Peltier. Also please ask him when these hearings will take place. **Also let President Clinton know about this: President@whitehouse.gov.**

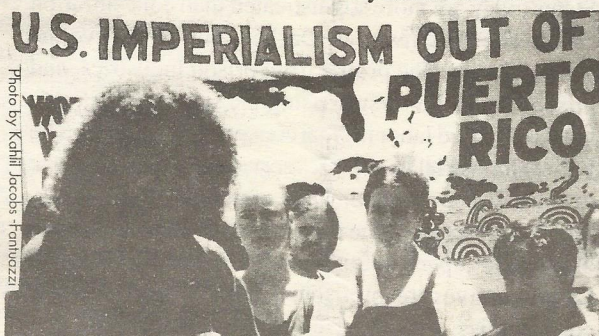


SPARKS FLY! once more

The 9th annual Sparks Fly! event, held November 7 in San Francisco, was a huge success. We collected \$2000. After expenses \$1500 was given to the Women Political Prisoner Commissary Fund. Many, many thanks to Chrystos for reading her poetry, Angela Davis for speaking and Carolyn Brandy for performing. We also want to thank, with all our hearts, the people who helped before and during the event and all the people who attended.

We just learned of a new offspring: Sparks Fly, East Coast. The night of poetry, music, dance and art by women for women political prisoners and prisoners of war in the US will be on Friday, December 11, 7pm at the Brookdale Center, 425 East 25th Street, New York City. Admission \$10. It will benefit prisoners' commissary funds and highlight the Hands Off Assata! campaign.

You can get more information by email at LungMei2@aol.com, or at 212-772-4261. The event is being co-sponsored by the student government at Hunter. Childcare available, everyone welcome.



Angela Davis speaking at July 25, 1998 rally in San Francisco

Siddha Meditation

The Prison Project offers Siddha Yoga Meditation to people in prison. Their leaflet states, "...the individual and the divine are one, that source of love, joy and creativity lies within each person. Through a simple process of focusing and quieting the mind, a meditator can have the direct experience of his or her own higher power or inner Self."

The course is free to all prisoners, is available in Spanish or English and comes in monthly mailings of two lessons. They also provide prison libraries, chapels or prisoner meditation groups with books published by the SYDA Foundation. All programs and study materials are free to prisoners. **For info write to Siddha Meditation Prison Project, 1132 Stanford Ave. Oakland, CA 94608.**

Seditious Conspiracy?

Fifteen Puerto Rican independence activists have been imprisoned since the early 1980's for the crime of seditious conspiracy, acting to overthrow the US government by force. In reality, they wanted to remove the authority of the US over their homeland, Puerto Rico. Altho the US government calls them criminals, these women and men are considered heroes and patriots by millions of Puerto Rican people.

1998 is the year marking the centennial of the US military invasion of Puerto Rico. The International Campaign to Free Puerto Rican Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War focused on this year as a critical one for the work to gain amnesty. White House correspondence has confirmed this by stating that President Clinton will make a decision regarding the amnesty petition this year.

As part of the continuing efforts to pressure U.S. Authorities in favor of the amnesty campaign for the Puerto Rican political prisoners and prisoners of war, a series of nationally coordinated demonstrations were held in November at all the prisons where Puerto Rican political prisoners are being held. One exception: USPEI Reno, in Oklahoma, at the request of POW Elizam Escobar. The prisons targeted were: USPLewisburg, Lewisburg, PA, USP Dublin, Pleasanton, CA, USP Terre Haute, Terre Haute, IN, USPLompoc, Lompoc, CA, USPOxford, Oxford, WI, USP Beaumont, Beaumont, TX, USP Danbury, Danbury, CT and USP Leavenworth, Leavenworth, KS.

December 10th is the 50th anniversary of the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights and it is also the centennial of the signing of the Treaty of Paris, which led to the illegal transfer of Puerto Rico from Spain to the United States after the so called Spanish American War of 1898.

In commemoration, there will be a series of activities held in New York City, Chicago, San Francisco, and Orlando demanding the release of the Puerto Rican Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War. On the 10th, in New York, there will be an ecumenical service held at the UN Chapel, a rally outside the UN, and an evening activity with a very special invited guest of honor.

These activities are the last chance to make an impact on this very important year, 1998. We urge everyone to support us with your presence. We also ask people to write more letters to president Clinton at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. Washington DC 20500, urging him to grant amnesty to the 15 Puerto Rican women and men. For further information on the International Campaign to Free Puerto Rican Political Prisoners call (773) 278-0885 or (415) 285-4452 or e-mail us at prpowpp@aol.com.

Resource Available for Prisoners

PEN Prison Writing Program has a listing of 59 correspondence course program. They also publish The Information Bulletin for prison writers that includes info on annual contests, manuscript preparation, a directory of small magazines that consider new voices for publication and a list of pen pal organizations. Contact PEN, 568 Broadway, New York, NY 10012.

OUT OF TIME

FREE Mumia Abu-Jamal

On Oct. 26, Mumia's final state appeal was denied by the PA Supreme Court. Attorneys for Mumia filed an application on Nov. 4th for a rehearing on the grounds that the Supreme Court accepted judge Albert Sabo's biased findings as though the hearings were fair and honest. The effect of the filing is that the case remains in the state court system for the immediate future and it is possible that a new death warrant will not be signed for some weeks.

After the appeal was denied in October, there were demonstrations in many cities all over the US and the world, including Stockholm, Oslo, Barcelona, Dublin,

Laura Whitehorn, #22432037, 5701 8th St., FC1 Dublin, Camp Parks, Dublin CA 94568

Toronto and several places in Brazil.

Some things we all can do:

*Contact International Concerned Friends and Family of Mumia Abu-Jamal, PO Box 19709, Philadelphia, PA 19143, e-mail: Mumia@aol.com or <http://www.Mumia.org>

*Contribute to Mumia's Legal Defense Fund, payable to Black United Fund/Mumia Abu-Jamal/LDF and mail to Black United Fund, 2227 N. Broad St. Phila. PA 19132

*Call, write, fax or e-mail the PA governor to demand a new and fair trial for Mumia and NO DEATH WARRANT. Gov. Tom Ridge, Main Capitol Bldg. rm.225, Harrisburg, PA 17120; 717-787-2500; fax 717-772-8284; governor@state.PA

*Write Mumia and let him know you care, Mumia Abu-Jamal AM 8335, SCI Greene, 1040 East Roy Furman Hwy. Waynesburg, PA 15370

*Call or write Chief Justice P. Flaherty to demand a new and fair trial, Supreme Court of PA, Six Gateway Center, ste. 6161, Stanwix St. Pittsburgh, PA 15222; 412-565-5525

*Call or write prison warden Philip L. Johnson, let him know you are aware of Mumia's case and the horrific human rights violations at SCI Greene, 1030 East Roy Furman Hwy. Waynesburg, PA 15370; 412-852-2902

*Boycott the state of Pennsylvania. Call 1-800-VISIT-PA and say you won't visit PA until Mumia has received a new trial and all executions are halted.

RESTORE THE RELIGIOUS RIGHTS OF NATIVE PRISONERS

The California Department of Corrections is forcing through a grooming code for all male prisoners. No religious exemptions. All prisoners have to cut their hair to no more than 3 inches in length. This grooming code is affecting the Native prisoners who are practising their traditional beliefs. Power lies in the hair and forcibly cutting it is an attack on spirituality and culture. Some California State prisons are discontinuing the use of sweatlodges, also important to Native prisoners.

Native prisoners who refuse, for religious reasons, to cut their hair, get punished by losing all privileges. Punishment has included the loss of visits from family, telephone calls, parcels from home, loss of good time.

The California State Assembly Bill No. 1617 was introduced in 1998 to protect the religious freedom practises of California State prisoners and to add renewed protection for Native American prisoners to 'the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978'. This religious protection was recently lost when 'the Religious Freedom Restoration Act' (passed in 1993) was overturned in June 1997 by the U.S. Supreme Court.

On the 30th of June 1998 Bill AB 1617 passed the California Senate Committee. The support of this Bill by the committee was due to the huge outpouring of mail, email, faxes, and phone calls to the Senators involved. Several members of the European Parliament participated in the campaign.

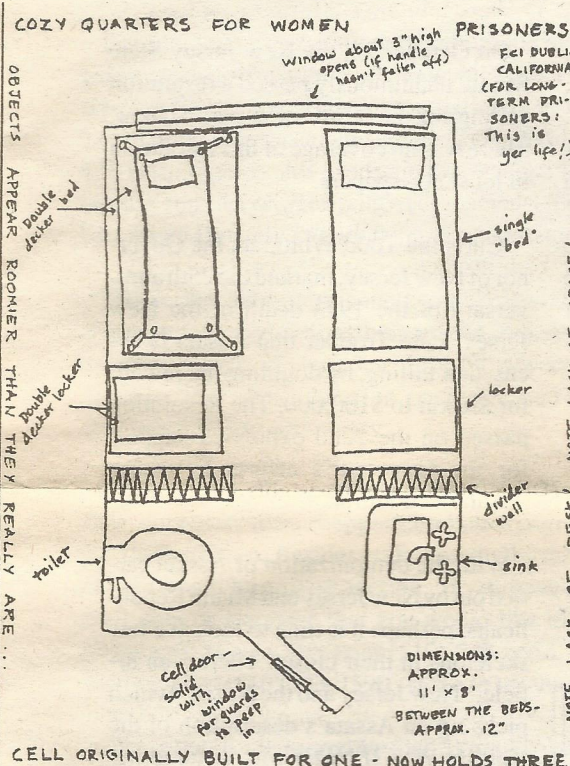
In September, governor Wilson vetoed Bill AB 1617. This is a terrible blow for every small religion and especially for the many Native prisoners in California. Joe Baca's office will reintroduce the Bill in January and with a new governor it will have more chance of being ratified.

PLEASE SEND SUPPORT LETTERS TO:

Senator Joe Baca, Room 3120, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814, email: Joseph.Mladinov@asm.ca.gov fax: 1-916 324 6980

California Department of Corrections, Regulations and policy matters, P.O. Box 942883, Sacramento, California 94283.

US Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, Special Litigation Section, PO Box 66400, Washington DC 20035-6400.



KNOCKING ON THE FBI

When was the last time the FBI knocked on your door? Luckily they never have knocked on mine. They did harass my sister for several months many years ago. She never invited them in but in retrospect we figured they thought we were the same person since she was the one with a record and I was the one with an alias. But this isn't what I really want to tell you about, I just wanted to get your attention. Now that I have it you should know that the FBI doesn't have to.

Knock, that is. In 1978 the government passed the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA), a secret court of anonymous judges that issues search warrants to the police without your knowledge. FISA was designed to limit abuses of authority, but in fact, out of the 10,000 warrant requests in the last 20 years, not one has been denied by this secret court. FISA was used extensively in the 1980's against organizations and religious groups working in solidarity with the peoples' movement in Central America. In 1995 new guidelines were added to FISA that allow actual searches of citizens and legal residences outside of the Fourth Amendment.

In October, Terry Squillacote and Kurt Stand were found guilty of conspiracy to commit espionage, attempted spying, and illegally obtaining national defense documents. They were accused of spying for the Republic of South Africa, East Germany and the Soviet Union. Using FISA permission the FBI had been electronically spying on Stand, Squillacote, and James Clark for more than two years. The surveillance intruded into all aspects of their lives, including a hidden microphone in Ms. Squillacote's bedroom, and taped conversations with her psychiatrist.

Ms. Squillacote, a lawyer and former Pentagon employee, and Mr. Stand, former North American representative of the International Food Workers Union, were targets of an FBI sting operation set up after the FBI stole a letter to South African Defense Minister and Communist Party leader Ronnie Kasrils from Squillacote's apartment. An FBI agent posing as an official of the Mandela government approached her requesting information. The documents Squillacote removed from the Pentagon and turned over to the undercover FBI agent are the only actual documents involved in the

entire case. No documents are alleged to have been turned over to a foreign power.

Mr. Clark, a former civilian employee of the Army, pleaded guilty and was a prosecution witness. He testified that the couple had told him they were working with an East German spy named Lothar Ziemer. Mr. Clark said he had passed secret documents to the same man in the 70's and 80's, but that he had never been told that Squillacote and Stand had given Ziemer classified information. Clark, Squillacote, and Stand have known each other since the early 70's when they were members of leftist student organizations at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee.

Under the vague definition of FISA, anyone here in contact with a foreign person or organization could conceivably become a target of U.S. government sponsored abuse. The next time the FBI knocks at your door, don't answer. But you better check under the bed.

For more information about this case contact the Fund for the Fourth Amendment, PO Box 5685, Washington, DC, 20016.

NEW from agit press

SPARKS FLY

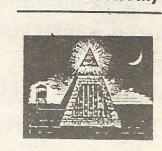
Women Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War in the U.S.



Biographies + Writings + Art

Sparks Fly: Women Political Prisoners and POWs in the US
44 pages, \$3

The Prison Industrial Complex and the Global Economy



by Eve Goldberg and Linda Evans

The Prison Industrial Complex & the Global Economy
24 pages, \$1

EZLN

Communications



From the mountains of southern Mexico
Words of the Zapatista National Liberation Army

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CRITICAL RESISTANCE

SEPT '98 UC BERKELEY

It was AMAZING ... 3500 people came to learn, to talk, to think and hopefully to do something about the prison industrial complex. More than 150 presentations were given. There was an obvious presence of young folks. People came from every part of the country and beyond. And, it was FREE! Food Not Bombs provided free food, and there was even coffee in the mornings. Just take a minute here to let that roll around yr brain 3500 and FREE like i said — AMAZING

So first, let's say thanks to ANGELA, ELLEN, & ELI for the idea, the concept, and the call. Thanks to the steering committee, the organizing committee, the cultural committee, the outreach committee, the logistic committee, and every other committee in the CR group. Let's not forget all those hordes of un-named volunteers. There are not enough words to express what this kind of attention means to prisoners. If we are ever to get the foot of the prison industrial complex off the throat of the prisoners in american cages, we will need even more folks talking about these issues.

What's next? Meetings are ongoing. A new structure is being created. Many papers and books will be published. The academic community will be dealing with this one too. And that's all good. The more people talking about the prison industrial complex, the better. OOT will report more as we know more.

Now a report back from BO on the 4 workshops she was a part of and the Opening Plenary. **FRIDAY:** Opening moderated by Dorsey Nunn consisted of eightex-prisoners who all had good things to tell us. Dorsey compared us to a large choir that needs to be on the same page singing the same song to make an organized, louder voice in the world. Chrystos gave us the key to expanding our world vision; stop thinking of racism in terms of Black & white only; deal with the world colonial/conqueror mentality that has produced all the genocide and slavery. Messages were read from women political prisoners. Too bad this presentation didn't get to be live on the radio; it was a good one. There are tapes available from (CRS, 1308 Gilman, Berkeley, 94706); this one is #001. **SATURDAY: SPARKSFLY** moderated by Out of Control and Francis of Comite'98 with a discussion and a call in from 3 women political prisoners @ fci dublin.ca. About 150 were there, the energy level was very high. 30 signed up for future work. The phones worked really well. Thanks to Travis for videoing it. Tape also available by name as they forgot to give it a #. **PRISONERS LEGAL NEWS:** call in moderated by Dan Pens (ed. PLN), Terry Kupers and Bo. John from Ohio and Emory from Louisiana talked with Dan and the audience about life in their prisons. Petty repression is increasing with SHU units being used as

an ultimate threat for even minor infractions. Resistance is ongoing via legal and other means. BUT, all prisoners report a lack of legal support and need strong outside supporters. Some of these situations are potentially dangerous to all involved. Sorry to all those who tried to call and couldn't get thru. Tape #045. **LESBIAN & GAY PRISONERS:** Moderated by Juanita Diaz-Cotto, prof, SUNY who gave an overview of lesbian & gay & transgender prisoners. Most of this information is kinda old but then no one really studys queers. And, the flip side of this is who wants to be studied when you are in extreme daily danger within the belly of the beast. This was a lively bunch of over 60. There was concern about the increase of street harassment by police aimed at lesbian & gay youth. Ask for tape by name. **SUNDAY: 50 YEARS OF STRUGGLE.** Moderated by Robert Perkinson, a YALE student. This was a giant success with more than 200 in attendance. Presenters were: Raphael Cancel Miranda 65 yrs old, a Puerto Rican POW from the early 50's, Frank "Big Black" Smith 60 yrs old Attica Brother & defendant in Attica civil case (awarded \$4 million in damages but has yet to see a dime due to appeals by NY), Ed Mead 55 yrs old & Bo 50 yrs old both were active in the Pacific NW George Jackson Brigade. All told their stories and spoke to specific examples of resistance. There was not enough time for any in depth discussion. Too bad this was not video taped as is was truly a moment to be shared in all our her/hisstory. Tape #096

i have some hopes, ideas or maybe just fantasies. One, that there be a prisoner task force, a way for prisoners to relate directly. Two, people will begin to look at their local jails, prisons and other state run institutions of repression. Local Prison Awareness groups could be formed to start questioning & monitoring these places: e.g. how many prisoners? what is their ethnicity? financial status? what do they eat? is there a special diet for pregnant women? what is justifiable force? how often is it used? how many have died in custody? is there any sensitivity training for guards? This effort would require grassroots organizing with neighbors, families of prisoners, etc; and it would let the local masters of unreason know that they are being observed. The data could be put on the CR website for the whole world to see. Information and ideas could flow and strategies will grow. The main thing is that all of us everywhere got to start doing something about this prison industrial monster. ...bo

Silvia Baraldini

In 1997, when Silvia petitioned for parole, she had been eligible since 1993. The Board refused her request. Their reasons for refusal demonstrate the political nature of the U.S. government's position in this case: because of "crimes committed by the conspiracy (she) espoused and supported" and her refusal to incriminate people involved in the movement.

The parole guidelines specify 40 to 52 months incarceration for the crimes for which Silvia was convicted. She has served more than 183 months. Yet the U.S. refuses to release Silvia.

June 8-10, 1998, in Strasbourg, France, the Council of Europe's Committee on Penal Affairs unanimously endorsed the request for Silvia's transfer to Italy.

Silvia Baraldini's life since her incarceration reflects her social commitment. She has organized, with other prisoners, an ongoing AIDS information project, bilingual in Spanish and English; completed her Bachelor's degree and entered a Master's program in Comparative Literature. She was co-teacher of a course on the Jewish Holocaust. Currently, she teaches African American History as her prison job.

You can help send Silvia home to Italy: Fax/email campaign, December 10, 11, 12 to President Clinton, Fax 202-456-2461 or email president@whitehouse.gov. And to Prime Minister of Italy, Massimo Alema, email dalema@democraticidisinistra.it.

"READY FOR THE
REVOLUTION"

KWAME TURE

1941 - 1998

ALWAYS
PRESENT

PROTECT AND DEFEND ASSATA

In September Congress passed Resolution 254, which called for the extradition of Assata Shakur from Cuba. Unfortunately all members of the Congressional Black Caucus present that day voted for it. Many of us were outraged about this. The CBC has been criticized publicly for their lack of awareness and/or willingness to let this resolution pass. Maxine Waters subsequently wrote an addendum to the resolution claiming that Black members were not aware that this was about Assata since it used her slave name in the text of the resolution. She also sent a letter to Castro that was circulated on the internet.

On October 22, the New Jersey State Senate unanimously passed a resolution calling for the return of Assata Shakur. There was no coverage of this resolution in local newspapers.

Christine Todd Whitman, the Governor of New Jersey, marked the 25th anniversary of the 1973 death of the New Jersey State Trooper that Assata is accused of killing, by doubling the reward for Shakur to \$100,000. The Resolution passed on the 22nd expressed support for the Governor's efforts to secure Assata's extradition.

With the demonization of Assata carried out by New Jersey and Miami Republicans, perhaps it is time to look at a few skeletons in their closet. There's an article, "New Jersey and the Nazis," which picks up on Assata's description of the real life WW II Nazis who tortured her after her capture. For details, see: www.afrocubaweb.com/assata4.htm

The Jericho Movement is an amnesty campaign calling for the release of all political prisoner and POWs in U.S. prisons. For info contact the Jericho Movement, PO Box 3585, Oakland, CA 94609, 510-667-9333 or AfroCubaWeb Postal address PO BOX 1054, Arlington, MA 02474-0020 Email main@afrocubaweb.com The full text of the resolution can be found at <http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/9899/Bills/sr/4011.htm>

WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO PARTICIPATE?

I am Melissa Briggs, graduate student in Women's Studies at the University of Cincinnati, doing my Master's thesis on the experiences of lesbian women who have been imprisoned in the United States (and have been released). The text of my project are transcripts of about 5-8 in-depth interviews with women. I will be coming to the San Francisco/Berkeley/Oakland area in January/February 1999 to conduct interviews. If you are willing

and able to participate in an in-depth, audiotaped interview (with full anonymity), I would really appreciate your participation. I want to be led in the interview by what you think is important, but I want to discuss your conception of your lesbian identity and your perceptions of your time in prison. This research is very important and necessary, and will fill an essential gap in knowledge, as I hope that what I learn can help academic and activ-

ist communities confront a population they have ignored. **If you want to participate, you can contact me (if you want to participate or if you just have any questions) via email at melissajb@aol.com, or at 420 Ludlow Avenue #16, Cincinnati, OH 45220.** I will call you (to avoid you having to pay long distance rates). I urge you to let your voice and your story be told.